

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial
Relations
News For Immediate Release
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Mobile Woman Guilty of Violating Unemployment Compensation Law

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, April 13, 2005 A Mobile woman has been found guilty of violating the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law.

Laura M. Grandquest was tried in the Mobile County Circuit Court on April 12, 2005 and was charged with two counts of Theft of Property in the First Degree for violating Alabama's Unemployment Compensation Law. The Alabama Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) presented evidence that Grandquest willfully made false statement in claims for unemployment benefits. An investigation by the DIR Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Grandquest received a total of \$6,851.00 in unemployment benefits to which she was not entitled. The evidence was presented by DIR Investigator William A. Chappelle.

"DIR, in cooperation with local District Attorney offices, is continuing to actively pursue indictments and arrests of those who allegedly draw unemployment compensation benefits illegally," says Phyllis Kennedy, Industrial Relations director. "The successful prosecution of these cases helps to maintain the integrity of the state's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, used to pay benefits to citizens that are truly qualified to receive the money. It also serves as a deterrent to potential violators of the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law."

Grandquest was found guilty and sentenced by Judge Charlie Graddick to a ten year suspended sentence, five years formal probation and 30 days in the Mobile Metro jail. She will be required to repay the amount of benefits received.

Suspected unemployment compensation fraud may be reported to Industrial Relations through the toll-free telephone number, 1-800-392-8019.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information

on DIR visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.